will destroy incentives to manufacture ; (c) a twenty year term of patent will result in delaying introduction of new products ; (d) research and development would become redundant ; (e) Indian exports of such products would be affected ; (f) patent protection on bio-technology will have adverse consequences on preventive medicine ; (g) automatic licences of right are needed to bring about competition.

Government is examining all aspects of the compromise proposals of DG GATT for taking a final view.

The proposals of DG GATT are not in the nature of a "Leave it or accept it as it is" proposal. Some major participating countries have expressed less than full satisfaction with the proposals and have indicated a willingness to carry forward the negotiating process on the basis of these proposals.

India also intents to seek improvements in the proposals. Hence, the question of consequences of accepting or rejecting the proposals does not arise.

Impact of bomg blast in a hotel in the capital on foreign tourists

*212. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that in a recent bomb blast in a hotel at Paharganj in the Capital a number of foreign tourists were injured causing panic among them;

(b) whether Government have studied the likely impact of this incident on the inflow of foreign tourist in the capital;

(c) whether Government are also aware that most of the injured foreign tourists *were* low budget tourists and after the incident they are feeling insecure, particularly, in the Capital; and

(d) what remedial action his Ministry propose to take in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MANDHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (d) On 23rd April, 1922 a bomb blast in Paharganj, Delhi injured 12 foreigners. It is not possible to guess the impact of an isolated incident on tourism as a whole. In April, 1992 tourist arrivals in Delhi increased by 36.2 per cent compared to April, 1991.

The Government has intensified patrolling and taken steps to educate hotel/restaurant owners and the general public regarding such incidents. Campaigns are carried out abroad by the Ministry of Tourism to reassure tourists.

Telephone and S.T.D. Facility in Tribal Areas of Andhra Pradesh

*213. SHRI M. M. HASHIM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Government have received any representation to improve telephone communication network in the tribal areas of Andhra Pradesh.

(b) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to grant STD facilities at Polavaram in the tribal areas of West Godavari in Andhra Pradesh ; and

(c) what steps are being taken by Government to improve telephone facilities at Polavaram ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. It is proposed to provide STD facility at Polavaram by the end of the 8th Five Year Plan period (by March, 1997).

(c) Telephone facilities at Polavaram have been improved last year (1991-92) by coversion of 50 line electro-mechanical exchange to 128 Port C-DOT Digital Elec tronic Exchange.

Imposition of Cut on Release of States' Share in Central Taxes

*214. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to introduce fresh expenditure

control measures, implying a cut in th advance release of States' share in Centri taxes during the current financial year;

(b) if so, what is the quantum of ac vance funds likely to be cut, State-wise;

(c) what is the extent to which it wi reduce the fiscal deficit; and

(d) what other measures are proposed i the post budget era to impose a strie control on the Central expenditure ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHAN TARAM POTDUKHE) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

(d) Strict control on Government ex penditure is a continuous exercise and ins tractions in this regard are issued to a] the Ministries/Departments of the Govern ments of India from time to time. Recent! the Government of India have taken some initiatives to reduce Government spendin, by way of reduction in the number of posts reduction in travel expenditure by Govern ment employees and by way of reductioi of telephones on Government account.

Golden Angle Scheme to Improve Tourisn

*215. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATIONAND AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Governmen propose to start a golden angle scheme for connecting several places to improve tou rism; and

(b) if so, by when this scheme is likely to be implemented ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) There is no such proposal under the consideration of the Government. However, in order to further develop the tourism sector, 15 circuits and areas have been identified for intensive development.

For this purpose, surveys have been commissioned to assess the infrastructural re&uirements at these places.

Closure of Badarpur Thermal Power Statio

216. SHRI SARADA MOHANTY :

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA :

Will the Minister of POWER AND NON CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Badarpu Thermal Power Station is on the verge o; closure as it has no money to buy coal;

(b) if so, what are the factors leadinh to such a situation ; and

(c) what measures are being contemplated by Government to ensure the smooth running of this major power house ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI) : (a) to (c) Badarpur Thermal Power Station (BTPS) is facing problems in meeting its operational expenditure, including payments for coal supplies, railway freight etc. due to the inability of the Delhi Electric Supply Undertaking (DESU) to make payments for the purchase of power from BTPS. Delhi Administration/DESU have been requested to mobilise necessary resources and make payments to BTPS for its smooth operation.

ओखला, दिल्ली में स्थानीय सार्वजनिक टेलीफोन घर

*217. **मौलाना ओबेदुल्ला खान आजमी :** क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) ओखला और इसके आसपास दिल्ली में कितने स्थानीय सार्वजनिक टेलीफोन घर हैं;

(ख) क्या यह सच है कि ओखला गांव और इसके आसपास स्थानीय सार्वजनिक टेलीफोन घरों की संख्या अपर्याप्त है; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो स्थिति से निपटने के लिए सरकार द्वारा क्या कार्यवाही की जा रही है ?

संचार मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री राजेश पायलट) (क) ओखला टेलीफोन एक्सचेंज